

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONDITIONS AFFECTING U.S. PROFESSOR PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 200108, (B) 75 SANTIAGO 8313

1. UNIVERSITY SITUATION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT DESCRIBED IN REF B INSOFAR AS IT AFFECTS U.S. PROFESSOR PROGRAM. BINATIONAL COMMISSION AND EMBASSY ARE WORKING ACTIVELY AND FRUITFULLY WITH VARIOUS ACADEMIC PROGRAMS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN U.S. AND CHILE AND HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON LONG-RANGE CULTURAL RELATIONS.

2. PRIME EXAMPLES OF VIABLE ACADEMIC PROGRAM IS AMERICAN STUDIES AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF CHILE (SANTIAGO WHICH IS NEARING END OF SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR AS COMMISSION'S TOP-PRIORITY PROJECT. THIS PROGRAM EXPECTS TO AWARD FIRST MASTER'S DEGREES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CIVILIZATION AT END OF CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR AND TO CONTINUE STEADY GROWTH UNDER LEADERSHIP OF BOTH CHILEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN PROFESSORS. FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR LOREN DAVIDSON OF DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY HAS EXTENDED HIS STAY TO END OF CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR AND REPORTS HE HAS NEVER FELT ANY RESTRICTIO S OR LIMITATIONS ON HIS ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES OR MOVEMENTS SINCE AUGUST 1975 ARRIVAL.

3. OTHER AREAS IN WHICH EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC EXCHANGES CAN TAKE PLACE ARE RURAL SOCIOLOGY AT AUSTRAL UNIVERSITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL

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STUDIES, AS IDENTIFIED IN COMMISSION'S FY 1977 PROGRAM PROPOSAL.

4. SINCE REF B, WE HAVE NOTED TOUGHENING OF GOC APPOINTEES' ATTITUDES TOWARD CHILEAN ACADEMICS NOT FULLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORT OF JUNTA AND/OR SUSPECTED OF ANTI-JUNTA ATTITUDES AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AT DOMINANT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE (UCH). NEW WAVE OF FIRINGS BEGAN AT END OF 1975 UNDER EXTREME-RIGHT RECTOR-DELEGATE WHO, HOWEVER, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REPLACED BY ACTIVE-DUTY ARMY GENERAL. THE LATTER, ALTHOUGH NOT CONTINUING HIS PREDECESSOR'S PURGES HAS DONE NO MORE THAN IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE. UCH LAW SCHOOL, ONE OF MAIN BULWARKS OF POLITICAL AND ACADEMIC CONSERVATISM UNDER CURRENT REGIME, HAS CONTINUED HARD-LINE POLICY UP TO AUGUST 1976, WHEN TWO PROMINENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PROFESSORS (ONE A FORMER LAW SCHOOL DEAN AND MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR UNDER FREI) WERE FIRED FOR ENGAGING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

5. SUCH INSTANCES HAVE SO FAR NOT AFFECTED AND ARE NOT EXPECTED TO AFFECT ANY U.S. ACADEMIC IN CHILE AS LONG AS HE AVOIDS POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT OR DISCUSSION WHILE HERE.

6. WE REITERATE OUR CONCERN THAT VALUABLE ACADEMIC EXCHANGES DEVELOPED OVER MANY YEARS MIGHT BE CUT OFF AS RESULT OF SELECTIVE PENALTIES AGAINST GOC WHICH ARE NOT EQUALLY APPLIED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE CLEARLY REPRESSIVE, AUTHORITARIAN AND/OR DOMINATED BY ONE-MAN RULE.

7. WE ALSO REPEAT OUR CONVICTION THAT ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL TIES PROVIDE IMPORTANT CHANNELS FOR U.S. TO SET EXAMPLE AND EXERT SOME INFLUENCE ON EVOLUTION OF MORE OPEN, PLURALISTIC AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN CHILE.
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